



U.S. Small Business
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Eastern Pennsylvania District

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SBA Officials Recognize Eastern Pennsylvania's 2024 Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award Winner

Bucknell University SBDC recognized April 30

EASTERN Pa.– The U.S. Small Business Administration announces Bucknell University Small Business Development Center as the recipient of its 2024 Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award. **Media are invited to attend.**

WHO: Steve Dixel, District Director, SBA Eastern Pennsylvania District Office
Michael Kane, Deputy District Director, SBA Eastern Pennsylvania District Office
Dr. Ernie Post, Director, Pennsylvania SBDC Lead Office
Steven Stumbris, Director, Bucknell University Small Business Development Center
Invited: Local, state and federal officials

WHAT: Bucknell University Small Business Development Center is the SBA's Eastern Pennsylvania SBDC Excellence and Innovation Award Winner; media are invited to tour the center and will have opportunities for interviews and photos.

WHEN: April 30 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Campus Theatre, 413 Market St, Lewisburg

Bucknell SBDC provides entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge they need to start and grow their ventures. Services are extended to small business owners throughout Union, Northumberland, Juniata, Montour, Perry, and Snyder counties in central Pennsylvania. Bucknell hosts the statewide Center of Excellence for Innovation Engineering, providing specialized innovation, engineering, and concept development services to small businesses in partnership with Bucknell's College of Engineering. The center leads two community-based business incubators, Startup Lewisburg and Startup Danville, and also offers a suite of digital services to help rural businesses adapt and expand in a post-pandemic economy.

One of the longest-serving SBDCs in the nation, and the first to be hosted by a College of Engineering, Bucknell's center was an inaugural member of the Pennsylvania SBDC network upon its formation in 1979. Currently under the direction of Director Steven Stumbris, the center has served over 8,000 entrepreneurs since its inception. Stumbris also serves as the moderator for Keystone Edition Business, a monthly public television program featuring insights from entrepreneurs, leaders, and innovators in business throughout central and northeastern Pennsylvania with episodes frequently featuring SBDC clients and consulting staff.

Assistant Director Dennis Hummer leads the center's two business incubators and is launching the development of Bucknell's 3rd incubator, Startup Milton, in 2024.

A leading producer of wrestling mats is a client of the center's and is working with Innovation Engineering Manager Ian Proud, an engineering student team and faculty advisor, in designing, manufacturing, & commissioning a new production machine. Bucknell SBDC clients have been recognized by the SBA Eastern

Pennsylvania District. Last year Crest Haven Farm Market was recognized as the 2023 Entrepreneurial Success of the Year. The year before, Susquehanna Fire Equipment Company was named the 2022 Family-owned Small Business of the Year.

“It’s wonderful to have the privilege to recognize the achievements of our resource partners such as Bucknell University SBDC and leaders like Steven Stumbris,” said Steve Dixel, SBA Eastern Pennsylvania Director. “Under Steven’s leadership, the center helped their rural clients access more than \$10 million in capital in fiscal year 2023.”

“Bucknell SBDC is an exemplar of positive engagement with its host institution and the region,” said Dr. Ernie Post, Director, Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center (PA SBDC) Network. “The stories of successful Bucknell SBDC clients and students are frequently featured in local and regional media. Additionally, the center staff regularly contribute to advancing and disseminating knowledge through presentations at the state level and at America’s SBDC national conference.”

“We are honored to be presented with the SBA’s 2024 Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award, and it is a privilege to serve the entrepreneurs of central Pennsylvania,” said Bucknell University SBDC Director Steven Stumbris. “Our team is dedicated to helping our small businesses innovate and succeed. Last year alone, our center engaged with more than 600 individuals, resulting in the launch of over 40 new businesses. Additionally, our consulting assistance helped businesses support more than 2,300 jobs across our region. We thank the SBA, Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, USDA Rural Development, our colleagues across the Pennsylvania SBDC Network, and our host Bucknell University for their support and collaboration.”

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) are the only statewide, nationally accredited program that provides high quality one-on-one consulting, training, and information resources to empower new and existing businesses. The SBDC program is a public/private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and 15 universities and colleges across the Commonwealth.

SBA’s Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award Winner is selected from among the Eastern Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center Network. National Small Business Week recognizes the small business community’s contribution to the American economy. Learn more about National Small Business Week at www.sba.gov/NSBW.

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To request interviews or photos, contact Eastern Pennsylvania District Office Public Information Officer Sonia Smith at sonia.smith@sba.gov.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.